

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 00171 091444Z

43

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SUBJECT: EA NARCOTICS CONFERENCE: SUMMARY OF PROBLEM ON TAIWAN

FOR EA/RA

REF: STATE 235699

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DRUG PROBLEM AND ANTI-DRUG PROGRAM IN THE ROC, FOR BACKGROUND USE IN CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING EA NARCOTICS CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. I. CHINESE COMMUNITY

(A) LARGELY BECAUSE OF RIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT AND SEVERE PENALTIES, NARCOTICS ABUSE IS NOT A GREAT PROBLEM AMONG THE CHINESE ON TAIWAN. THERE IS A LOW LEVEL USE OF HEROIN, MORPHINE AND OPIUM. THE USE OF AMPHETAMINES AND BARBITUATES IS SMALL BUT GROWING. THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE MUCH INTEREST IN MARIJUANA EXCEPT ON THE FRINGES OF US ACTIVITIES. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF LSD USE, WE KNOW OF NO

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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 00171 091444Z

CONFIRMED CASES AMONG CHINESE OR AMERICANS ON TAIWAN.

B. ROC LAW PRESCRIBES THE DEATH PENALTY FOR PUSHING, TRAFFICKING IN, OR REPEATED USE OF NARCOTICS, AND THIS PENALTY IS METED OUT WITH SUFFICIENT FREQUENCY TO CONSTITUTE A SIGNIFICANT DETERRENT. BARBITURATES AND AMPHETAMINES HAVE NOT IN PRACTICE BEEN CONSIDERED NARCOTICS FOR ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES. PILLS ARE READILY AVAILABLE IN MANY PHARMACIES, AND ROC AUTHORITIES HAVE UNTIL RECENTLY BEEN EXTREMELY LAX IN ENFORCEMENT OF PRESCRIPTION LAWS. RECENT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES (PARA V-C) INDICATE THAT ROC AUTHORITIES NOW ARE VIEWING PILLS AS A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM.

(C) THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE ROC IS USED TO ANY SIGNIFICANT EXTENT AS A TRANS-SHIPMENT POINT OR BASE OF OPERATIONS OR SUPPLY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF NARCOTICS.

3. II. AMERICAN MILITARY

(A) US MILITARY TRAVELERS HAVE BEEN THE SOURCE OF OUR GREATEST NARCOTICS PROBLEM ON TAIWAN, BOTH IN TERMS OF NARCOTICS USE AMONG MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND AS A SOURCE OF NARCOTICS (PRIMARILY MARIJUANA) USED BY AMERICAN CIVILIAN YOUTH ON TAIWAN.

(B) WHILE THE INCIDENCE OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG THE US MILITARY HAS BEEN LOWER ON TAIWAN THAN IN SEA, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE VIETNAM WAR IT WAS AN INCREASING PROBLEM. IN THE PAST, MOST HEROIN AND MARIJUANA USED ON TAIWAN CAME FROM SEA THROUGH CCK AIR BASE, AND THE MOST SEVERE DRUG ABUSES PROBLEM EXISTED IN THE CCK (CENTRAL TAIWAN) AREA. THERE VOLUME OF NARCOTICS IMPORTED THROUGH CCK DROPPED OFF SHARPLY FOLLOWING THE CESSATION OF US COMBAT ACTIVITIES IN INDOCHINA, AND IT SHOULD FALL EVEN FURTHER AS A RESULT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE 374TH TACTICAL AIR WING, WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 1973.

(C) WHILE THE IMPORTATION OF NARCOTICS BY MILITARY TRAVELERS HAS BEEN CUT BACK SHARPLY, BARBITURATES AND AMPHETAMINES CONTINUE TO BE READILY AVAILABLE ON TAIWAN, AND THIS HAS BECOME A PROBLEM FOR THE SEVENTH FLEET. SAILORS STOCK UP ON PILLS WHILE IN A TAIWAN PORTS AND TAKE THEM BACK ABOARD SHIP FOR LATER USE.

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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 00171 091444Z

4. III. AMERICAN YOUTH: THE INCIDENCE OF HEROIN USE BY AMERICAN YOUTH ON TAIWAN IS VERY LOW. MARIJUANA USE IS A SOMEWHAT GREATER PROBLEM BUT IT TOO IS RELATIVELY LIGHT. BARBITURATES AND AMPHETAMINES ARE A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS. PILLS HAVE BEEN READILY AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN YOUTH, ALTHOUGH THERE IS ENCOURAGING EVIDENCE THAT THIS MAY CHANGE (PARA V-C).

5. IV. CONTROL PROGRAM - MILITARY:

(A) THERE HAS BEEN A SYSTEMATIC MILITARY CAMPAIGN TO CONTROL THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC, INCLUDING DOGS, RAMP CONTROL, AND INSPECTION OF AIRCRAFT. BECAUSE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE EFFORTS, ALONG WITH THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY TRAFFIC FROM SEA, THE PROBLEM NOW IS FAIRLY WELL UNDER CONTROL.

B. THE MILITARY ALSO CONDUCTS AN EXTENSIVE DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM IN ALL SERVICES AND AT ALL INSTALLATIONS. HOWEVER, SEVER CASES ARE DEALT WITH BY REMOVING THEM FROM THE ISLAND.

(C) COMUSTDC HAS CONTACTED THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE REGARDING THE LAXITY IN ENFORCEMENT OF PRESCRIPTION LAWS WITH RESPECT TO BARBITURATES AND AMPHETAMINES, AND HAS RECEIVED A POSITIVE RESPONSE. CHINESE AUTHORITIES, IN COORDINATION WITH US NAVY ELEMENTS, RECENTLY CONDUCTED A SPECIAL OPERATION TO INHIBIT THE AVAILABILITY OF BARBITURATES AND AMPHETAMINES IN THE MAIN POPULATION CENTERS AND PORTS OF TAIWAN FREQUENTED BY VISITING US NAVY FLEET PERSONNEL. MANY LOCAL-NATIONAL TRAFFICKERS WERE ARRESTED, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF DRUG STORES AND OTHER OUTLETS WERE CLOSED AND/OR SUBJECTED TO HEAVY FINES. THIS OPERATION WILL BE REPEATED AT PERIODIC INTERVALS TO INSURE THAT CONTINUED PRESSURE IS MAINTAINED.

6. V. CONTROL PROGRAM - YOUTH/DEPENDENTS

(A) THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS UNDERTAKEN A SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO COPE WITH THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM AMONG AMERICAN YOUTH. THIS HAS INCLUDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FAMILY ADVISORY CENTER TAIWAN (FACT), DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT THE TAIPEI AMERICAN SCHOOL, AN EXPANDED COUNSELING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 TAIPEI 00171 091444Z

PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOL, AND CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE LIAISON AND COOPERATION AMONG APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF THE SCHOOL, THE VARIOUS CIVILIAN AND MILITARY ENTITIES, AND THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

(B) IDENTIFIED DRUG ABUSERS ARE URGED, ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILIES, TO SEEK COUNSELING AT FACT. POLICY WITHIN THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY IS TO TRANSFER IDENTIFIED HEROIN OR MARIJUANA PUSHERS (AND THEIR FAMILIES) BACK TO THE US. PERSISTENT USERS OF HEROIN OR MARIJUANA, AND THOSE WHO REFUSE COUNSELING, ALSO FACE THAT PROSPECT. THE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE OF HEROIN AND MARIJUANA ABUSE HAS SERVED AS A STRONG DETERRENT.

(C) THE INCIDENCE OF DRUG ABUSE IN THE NON-OFFICIAL COMMUNITY IS ABOUT THE SAME AS IN THE OFFICIAL

COMMUNITY, BUT IT IS SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL
WITH. AS A WHOLE, HOWEVER, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS
BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE WITH THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY IN
DRUG CONTROL MATTERS.
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